

together for the one purpose of uplifting or relieving suffering humanity? "There are many gifts, and there are differences of administration, but the same spirit worketh in all."

"We are not here, to play, to dream, to drift.  
We have hard work to do and loads to lift.  
Shun not the struggle; face it. 'Tis God's gift."

M. E. YOUNG,

Graduate of Butler Hospital Training-School for Nurses, Providence, R. I., Class 1900.

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DEAR EDITOR: The subject of catheterization of male patients comes up from time to time. I have had a good deal of that sort of thing to do. My preparations are the same as for any catheterization. Before folding the blankets down, I place a sterile towel over the patient, then roll the covering just below the pubis. This can be done without removing the towel. I again prepare my hands, and can easily arrange the towel so that there is no exposure of the patient.

Very truly,

M. L. O.

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DEAR EDITOR: Your editorial on catheterization of male patients, in the November JOURNAL, has aroused within me a spirit which, like that oft-quoted ghost, "will not down," and I am moved to add my testimony in this grave matter.

To the nurse trained in the modern general hospital, in any of our large cities, where there is a staff of male nurses or well-trained orderlies, it is almost beyond belief that there are hospitals in existence where the catheterization, bladder irrigation, etc., of male patients, by the pupil nurses is routine practice, and yet such is the case. There are many hospitals in the land in which young women are compelled to perform these offices for patients who are not only not unconscious, but often not seriously ill, and in spite of all that has been said about "the professional attitude," "the elimination of the personal equation," "the purity of all things to the pure," etc., I firmly believe that no young woman (and it is a deplorable fact that in the schools where such practice is countenanced the age limit is always low) can do these things without tarnishing her womanly purity. The bloom is rubbed from her innocence, and no compensating strength given, as is the case when a nurse faces a crisis and sacrifices personal feeling in the interest of her patient—and when this

crisis comes no true woman will be deterred by false modesty from doing everything in her power to aid in relieving suffering.

The responsibility for this state of things rests largely with the superintendent of the training-school. She it is who must educate her medical staff and board of directors to the point of seeing that what is bad for the morals of the nurse is equally bad for the patient, and not conducive to the best good of the institution.

True, she may not be able to control conditions, but she can create a sentiment and start some thinking in the right direction, which is something gained. To fully correct any such abuse, she must have the support of all the representative nurses in her community. There is at least one case on record where the superintendent, on protesting against an objectionable order, received this reply: "Very well, if your nurses cannot do all I require for my patients, I will take them to ——— Hospital. The nurses there are not so squeamish." In this case there were house doctors and male nurses in the hospital. In the institution where the welfare of the nurses received the proper consideration, the doctor who made such demands would be allowed, even requested, to take his patients elsewhere, but, unfortunately, such a happy state of things is not universal. The superintendent who has the stamina to stand against such abuses is worthy of our highest honor, and we should feel it a privilege to be able to help her in waging the good fight. May she win with colors flying!

HELEN W. KELLY.

[When we read Dr. Muren's paper, showing the great proportion of men of all classes, high and low alike, who are suffering from venereal diseases, can there be any question of the impropriety of requiring pupils in training to use the catheter upon male patients in our public hospitals?—ED.]

WHY do so few children between the ages of two and ten like vegetables?  
E. G.

If a doctor is dismissed from a case, is the nurse on duty at liberty to leave also, if she were brought to the case by the doctor?  
E. H.



"HUMAN life is made up of two elements, power and form, and the proportion must be invariably kept if we would have it sweet and sound. Each of these elements in excess makes a mischief as hurtful as its defects."—*Emerson*.